

## NINETEENTH CENTURY CHINA

**HIST 366/2**

LEC. A

**FALL, 2008**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Martin Singer

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**CLASS HOURS:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:45-13:00 Room CL243

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM and by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course focuses on China in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a critical period of transition between China's emperor-centered Confucian past and its revolutionary upheavals in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The course begins with an overview of both key elements of traditional Chinese history and the rise and rule of the Qing dynasty in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The balance of the course weaves back and forth between two complementary challenges facing the Qing in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: internal pressures (dynastic decline, rebellion, reform and reaction) and external pressures (the Opium War, the Treaty System, Western commercial expansion, Christian missionary activity and military confrontation). The course concludes by examining the range of late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese responses to China's unexpected defeat by Japan in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895. The companion course, 20<sup>th</sup> Century China, which is being offered in winter 2009, builds on these themes which together provide the context for revolution in China in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **COURSE WEBSITE:**

The course website is accessible through your Concordia portal and is an integral part of the course. There students will find both the course syllabus and lecture schedule that have been distributed in class and a list of topically arranged selected readings. As well, outlines of each week's lecture will be posted on the website immediately after each lecture is delivered. Finally, the course website contains a message board for course-related matters.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, W. W. Norton, 1999)

Pei-kai Cheng and Michael Lestz, *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection* (W. W. Norton, 1999)

Both books are available in the Concordia Bookstore and both books are required reading.

## **EXAMINATIONS:**

There will be two written examinations in this course. A mid-term examination will be held during class time on Monday October 20 and Wednesday October 22. A formal final examination will be scheduled during the December examination period.

## **CRITICAL ESSAY:**

Each student is required to prepare and submit a critical essay on an aspect of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese history in addition to writing the mid-term and final examinations. Students should look initially at the list of suggested reading topics that is posted on the course website. Those students who wish to pursue other topics should do so only after consultation with and approval from the instructor. Each student is expected to read at least four books on the theme selected and to produce a short (10-15 page) critical essay based on the readings. The optional essay must be computer printed and should be submitted no later than Monday November 17.

## **ACADEMIC CONDUCT:**

Concordia University has very clear guidelines as to what constitutes academic misconduct, including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation, falsification, multiple submission and/or theft. Students should familiarize themselves with the provisions of the “Code of Academic Conduct” including the penalties that apply. A summary of the Code, as well as a link to the full document, may be found on the History Department website at <http://history.concordia.ca/ungradcode.html>.

## **GRADING:**

The grading distribution will be as follows: mid-term – 30%, paper – 30%, final – 40%. Students should consult <http://history.concordia.ca/ungradgrading.html> to familiarize themselves with the History Department’s grading norms for undergraduate courses.

## **SHAC:**

Students of History Association of Concordia represents all undergraduate students registered in one or more history classes at Concordia. It organizes social and academic events; publishes the undergraduate journal *Historiae*; and runs a peer tutoring program. For information on volunteering, getting help with classes, getting published, or for upcoming events, check their website at: <http://alcor.concordia.ca/~shac/index.html> (or access through the History Department site), or stop by their office for free coffee (LB-620.2). They can be reached at [shacconcordia@yahoo.com](mailto:shacconcordia@yahoo.com).

**19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY CHINA**  
**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS**  
**FALL, 2008**

| <u>WEEK:</u>                     | <u>LECTURE TOPIC:</u>                          | <u>READINGS</u> (Chapters)    |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| September 3                      | Course Orientation                             |                               |
| September 8/10                   | Overview of Traditional China                  |                               |
| September 15/17                  | Qing Dynasty (before 1800)                     | Spence 1-5, Cheng & Lestz 1-5 |
| September 22/24                  | Early Western Contacts                         | Spence 6, Cheng & Lestz 6     |
| September 29/1                   | Confrontation with the West                    | Spence 7, Cheng & Lestz 7     |
| October 6/15                     | Rebellion in China                             | Spence 8, Cheng & Lestz 8     |
| October 20/22                    | Mid-term exam                                  |                               |
| October 27/29                    | Late Qing Restoration and Reform               | Spence 9, Cheng & Lestz 9     |
| November 3/5                     | Late Qing Foreign Relations                    |                               |
| November 10/12<br>November 17/19 | Impacts of the Sino-Japanese War               | Spence 10, Cheng & Lestz 10   |
| November 24/26                   | Dynastic Decline and Collapse                  | Spence 11, Cheng & Lestz 11   |
| December 1/2                     | Perspectives on 19 <sup>th</sup> Century China |                               |

\*Please note that there will be no class on Wednesday October 8 or Monday October 12. However, there will be a make-up class on Tuesday December 2.

